

**Claims:**

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving a request to play a first audio file and a second audio file;

analyzing data samples of the first audio file;

identifying wherein analyzing the data samples of the first audio file identifies a

first effective start position, and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;

identifying a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;

analyzing data samples of the second audio file;

identifying wherein analyzing the data samples of the second audio file identifies

a second effective start position associated with the second audio file;

playing the first audio file from the first effective start position;

upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file:

  - fading-out playback of the first audio file; and
  - playing the second audio file from the second effective start position.
- 2. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the fade-out position is located a predetermined time ahead of an effective end position associated with the first audio file.
- 3. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position differs from the start of the first audio file.

**4. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising fading-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

**5. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are stored in a media library.

**6. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are stored in the first audio file.

**7. (Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

**8. (Original)** A method comprising:

- receiving a request to analyze an audio file;
- selecting the first two data samples in the audio file;
- calculating an average value of the first two data samples in the audio file;
- if the average value exceeds a threshold value, marking the second data sample as an effective start position associated with the audio file and marking the first data sample as silent;
- if the average value does not exceed the threshold value:
  - selecting subsequent data samples in the audio file and updating the average value of all selected data samples until the average value exceeds a threshold value;
  - marking a current data sample as an effective start position associated with the audio file; and
  - marking previously selected data samples as silent.

**9. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the average value of the data samples is calculated based on volume levels in the audio file.

**10. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving the effective start position associated with the audio file to a media library.

**11. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving the effective start position associated with the audio file to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**12. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving information regarding data samples marked as silent to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**13. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the effective start position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file.

**14. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the effective start position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file to determine a point at which the audio file begins to fade-in as a previous audio file fades out.

**15. (Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 8.

**16. (Original)** A method comprising:

- receiving a request to analyze an audio file;
- selecting the last two data samples in the audio file;
- calculating an average value of the last two data samples in the audio file;
- if the average value exceeds a threshold value, marking the last data sample as an effective end position associated with the audio file and marking the other selected data sample as silent;
- if the average value does not exceed the threshold value:
  - selecting previous data samples in the audio file and updating the average value of all selected data samples until the average value exceeds a threshold value;
  - marking a current data sample as an effective end position associated with the audio file; and
  - marking previously selected data samples as silent.

**17. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the method is performed by a media player application.

**18. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving the effective end position associated with the audio file in a media library.

**19. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving the effective end position associated with the audio file to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**20. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the average value of the data samples is calculated based on volume levels in the audio file.

**21. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving information regarding data samples marked as silent to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**22. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the effective end position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file.

**23. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the effective end position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file to determine a point at which the audio file begins to fade-out.

**24. (Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

**25. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:

a cross-fade parameter calculator to analyze data samples of an audio file and calculate at least one fade-out parameter associated with the audio file;

a media library coupled to the cross-fade parameter calculator, the media library to store fade-out parameters associated with a plurality of audio files;

wherein the fade-out parameters are stored separate from the audio files;  
and

a cross-fader coupled to the media library, the cross-fader to apply fade-out parameters during playback of audio files.

**26. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fade parameter calculator calculates an effective start position associated with the audio file.

**27. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fade parameter calculator calculates an effective end position associated with the audio file.

**28. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fader retrieves fade-out parameters from the media library.

**29. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request to play a first audio file followed by a second audio file;

means for analyzing data samples of the first audio file;

identifying wherein analyzing the data samples of the first audio file identifies a first effective start position and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file, and ~~a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;~~ and

analyzing data samples of the second audio file;

wherein analyzing the data samples of the second audio file identifies a second effective start position associated with the second audio file; and

means for playing the first audio file from the first effective start position, wherein upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file, the means for playing fades-out playback of the first audio file and begins playing the second audio file from the second effective start position.

**30. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the fade-out position is located a predetermined time prior to an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

**31. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the means for playing fades-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.



**32. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the start position associated with the first audio file, the fade-out position associated with the first audio file, and the second effective start position associated with the second audio file are retrieved from a media library.

**33. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the start position associated with the first audio file and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are retrieved from the first audio file.

**34. (Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

receive a request to play a sequence of audio files;

analyze data samples of a first audio file, wherein analyzing yields data used to calculate a first effective start position and a fade-out position associated with the a first audio file;

~~calculate a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;~~

analyze data samples of a second audio file, wherein analyzing yields data used to calculate a second effective start position associated with a second audio file;

play the first audio file from the first effective start position;

upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file:

fade-out playback of the first audio file; and

play the second audio file from the second effective start position.

**35. (Original)** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 34 wherein the fade-out position associated with the first audio file is calculated by subtracting a predetermined time period from an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

**36. (Original)** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 34 wherein the one or more processors further fade-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

**37. (Original)** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 34 wherein the one or more processors further calculate effective start positions and fade-out positions associated with each audio file in the sequence of audio files.